

## Early Middle Ages

AP World History

## Fall of Rome

- 476 AD Rome invaded
- Centralized government disappears
- Loss of Greek and Roman learning and common language
- Transportation and communication halts



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## Long Term Effects

- Constant warfare and invasions
- Cities abandoned as economic and political centers
- Population becomes mostly rural
- Political, economic, and cultural face of Europe changes
- Feudalism develops

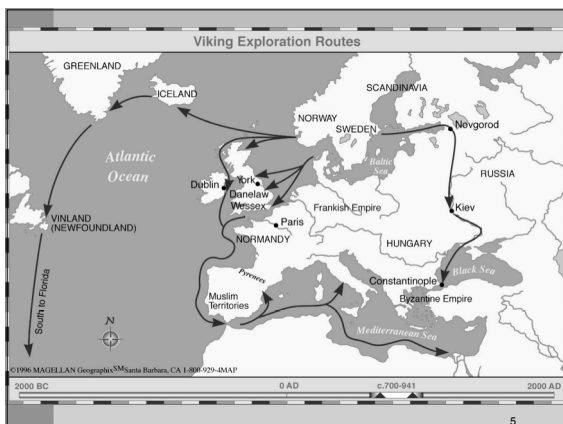
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## Stages of the Middle Ages

- **Stage 1 (476-750)**  
– Several smaller kingdoms form after Rome; Franks in France, Visigoths in Spain, Saxons in Germany. **No unity.**
- Viking raids begin



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## Stages of the Middle Ages

- **Stage 2 (750-814)** – Holy Roman Empire under Charlemagne defeats Muslims who had invaded France through Spain.

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## Stages of the Middle Ages

- **Stage 3 (815-1050)**  
– Carolingian Empire falls apart and nobles started feudal system.



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## Stages of the Middle Ages

- **Stage 4 (1050-1300)** – Rise of national monarchs brings changes and stability.
- First agricultural revolution allows for population increase.
- Trade starts up again, cities are repopulated.

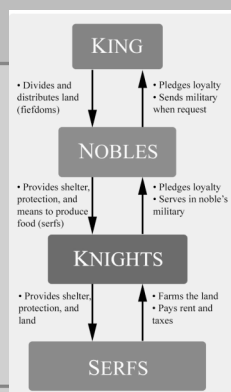


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## Feudalism

- Decentralization of Roman Empire
- Pyramidal structure
- Offered protection
- Relied upon mutual obligations and oaths of homage and fealty

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## Social Structure

- **Nobles** - Wealthy ruling class that owned land. Included kings, lords, knights
- **Serfs** - Largest but poorest part of population. Did most of the labor.
- **Freemen** - Lived in town; were generally craftsmen who made and sold goods. Not naturally a part of the feudal system.

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## The Manorial System

- Large estates that were able to meet all of their own needs
- Smaller farmers ceded land to nobles for protection
- Made up of fields, a small town with a mill and workshops, a church, and a castle



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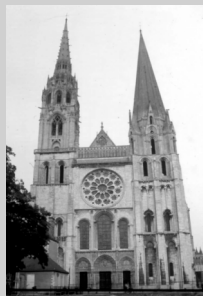
## Christianity after the Fall of Rome

- The Church was the only institution that remained
- A centralized and structured system kept the Church alive
- Used Roman governmental methods to stay organized
- Unifying "glue" for Europeans

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## Faith Intensifies

- People turned to God as the only hope in a life of fear and difficulty
- Promise of reward in next life became major focus



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## Church Control

- Bishops take up leadership roles in decimated communities
- Cathedrals become the center of cities and towns
- Church attempts to control/influence kings, nobles, and peasants



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## The Crusades

- 600 CE – Muslims occupy Holy Land
- 1070 CE – Turks attack Byzantine Empire, ask Pope Urban II for assistance



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## The Crusades: Causes

- Europe begins to thrive
  - Conversion of Vikings and Magyars
  - Agricultural advances increase food supply
- Roman-Byzantine Rivalry
  - Great Schism, 1064
  - Benedictine Reform causes Church in West to be more attentive to business and provides impetus to attempts to reassert control

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## The Crusades: Causes

- Events in Muslim World
  - Byzantines lose Anatolia to Turks.
  - Turks disrupt pilgrim traffic.

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## Call for a Crusade

- Urban II calls for Crusade, 1095
- Objectives
  - Drive Turks from Anatolia
  - Obligate the Byzantines
  - Provide occasion for healing Great Schism on Rome's terms
  - Capture Holy Land



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## Reasons to fight

- Believed this was God's command.
- Some wished for land and power, and sought to rule new kingdoms there.
- Others wanted an indulgence - This meant you had less time to spend in Purgatory, a forgiveness of your sins.



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## Reasons to fight

- Given to the Frankish Army
 

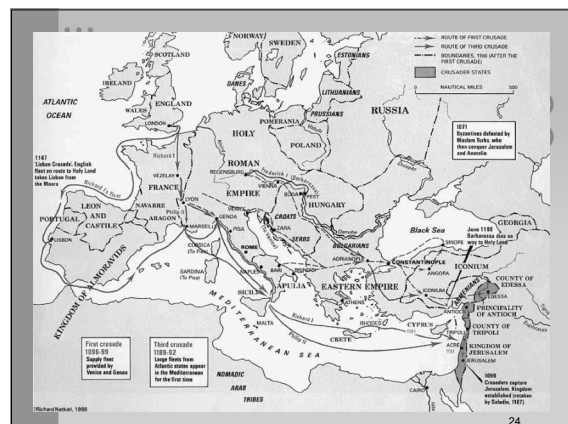
*Now we hope that none of you will be slain, but we wish you to know that the kingdom of heaven will be given as a reward to those who shall be killed in this war. For the Omnipotent knows that they lost their lives fighting for the truth of the faith, for the preservation of their country, and the defence of Christians. And therefore God will give them, the reward which we have named.*

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## Course of the Crusades

- Nine Crusades carried out
- Defeated Muslim defenders four times, lost four times
- Lack of interest, rising European prosperity
- Repeated military defeats

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### Effects of Crusades

- Fatal weakening of Byzantine Empire
- Vast increase in cultural horizons for many Europeans.
- Stimulated Mediterranean trade.
- Need to transfer large sums of money for troops and supplies led to development of banking techniques.
- As Europeans had more contact with the outside world, the Crusades began to tarnish the Church's image.

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### Effects of Crusades

- Knowledge introduced to Europe
  - Heavy stone masonry, construction of castles and stone churches.
  - Siege technology, tunneling, sapping.
- Weakening of nobility, rise of merchant classes
- Enrichment was primarily from East to West--Europe had little to give in return.
- Long-standing mistrust developed between Muslims and Christians.

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